

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: **Wilfried BIEN, et al.**

Examiner: **Mark H. PASCHALL**

Application. No.: **10/590,534**

Confirmation No.: **8970**

Filing Date: **05/10/2007**

Art Unit: **3742**

For: **METHOD FOR CONNECTING A SHEET METAL COMPONENT SUCH AS A PIPE, TO A CAST METAL COMPONENT, SUCH AS A HOUSING PORT, IN PARTICULAR FOR AN EXHAUST SYSTEM**

Attorney Docket No.: **DKT03088 (287)**

Customer No.: **71274**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98**

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby provide comments on the relevancy of non-English language documents cited in the European Opposition procedure corresponding to the above-referenced application. A copy of the non-US documents and each non-patent document set forth below and listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and 1.98.

1. German Published Application No. DE 19752773 A1

This document was cited in the corresponding European Opposition Procedure. This document belongs to the same "patent family" of US Patent No. 6,343,417 A1, whereby US 6,343,417 A1 may assist the PTO in understanding the content of the non-English document.

The relevancy of this document was urged by Opposition Requester in an Opposition proceeding before the EPO to be as follows: It discloses a procedure for connecting an exhaust manifold to an opening. The exhaust manifold includes an inner tube and an outer tube. The outer tube is at least one manufactured sheet metal part. The inner tube is inserted into the opening, and the sheet metal component of the outside pipe is welded to the opening by a welding process.

2. German Published Application No. DE 10050158 A1

This document was cited in the corresponding European Opposition Procedure. Applicants are not aware of any English language document equivalent to this document. The relevancy of this document was urged by Opposition Requester in an Opposition proceeding before the EPO to be as follows: It discloses a procedure for connecting an exhaust manifold with an opening of a housing of an exhaust assembly, with at least the opening of the exhaust assembly made of cast metal and wherein the exhaust manifold of the exhaust aggregates is introduced in the opening of the housing and is welded by a welding process.

3. ANIK, S., et al. "Schweisseignung metallischer Werkstoffe", DVS-Verl., 1995, p. 198

This document was cited in the corresponding European Opposition Procedure. Applicants are not aware of any English language document equivalent to this document. The relevancy of this document was urged by Opposition Requester in an Opposition proceeding before the EPO to be as follows: This document describes as a known procedure, to supply a short discharge pulse to the pulse-weld, to minimize the thermal load on the welded workpieces.

4. HILTUNEN, P., "Das Pulsschweisverfahren", Bänder, Bleche, Rohre Bd. 44 (2003) Heft 5/6 2003, p. 36-39

This document was cited in the corresponding European Opposition Procedure. Applicants are not aware of any English language document equivalent to this document. The relevancy of this document was urged by Opposition Requester in an Opposition proceeding before the EPO to be as follows: This document describes as a significant advantage of the capacitor-pulse welding, that the parts machined after welding maintain dimensional accuracy so that the welding of heat-sensitive parts and as well as metals with high electrical and thermal conductivity is easily possible.

5. US 6510920 B1

This document is in the English language and was cited by Opposition Requester in an Opposition proceeding before the EPO.

6. NORDING, T., "Neuartiges Konzept für isolierte Abgaskrümmmer, Vorrohre und Katalysatoren", MTZ Motortechnische Zeitschrift Bd. 52, Nr. 4, April 1991, Stuttgart, p. 206-210

This document was cited in the corresponding European Opposition Procedure. Applicants are not aware of any English language document equivalent to this document. The relevancy of this document was urged by Opposition Requester in an Opposition proceeding before the EPO to be as follows: The expertise supporting Document 2 can be found in this reference.

7. EWM-Schweisslexikon, WIG-Fibel, August 2002

This document was cited in the corresponding European Opposition Procedure. Applicants are not aware of any English language document equivalent to this document. The relevancy of this document was urged by Opposition Requester in an Opposition proceeding before the EPO to be as follows: This document notes that the laser, WIG- and MIG- welding

procedures are common and established procedures that are performed with pulsed energy.

8. EWM-Schweisslexikon, MIG/MAG-Fibel, August 2002

This document was cited in the corresponding European Opposition Procedure. Applicants are not aware of any English language document equivalent to this document. The relevancy of this document was urged by Opposition Requester in an Opposition proceeding before the EPO to be as follows: This document notes that the laser, WIG- and MIG- welding procedures are common and established procedures that are performed with pulsed energy.

9. German Published Application No. DE 2922563 A1

This document was cited in the corresponding European Opposition Procedure. This document belongs to the same “patent family” of US Patent No. 4,152,575 A1, whereby US 4,152,575 A1 may assist the PTO in understanding the content of the non-English document.

10. DILTHEY, U., “Wärmebehandlung der Stähle vor dem Schweißen, während dem Schweißen und nach dem Schweißen”, first page, Schweisstechnische Fertigungsverfahren 2,4., bearbeitete Auflage 2005, Springer Berlin Heidelberg, Kapitel 9

This document was cited in the corresponding European Opposition Procedure. Applicants are not aware of any English language document equivalent to this document. The relevancy of this document was urged by Opposition Requester in an Opposition proceeding before the EPO to be as follows: This document teaches that effect of heat on steel before, during and after welding is one of the general knowledge of the expert. Thus targeted temperature control structure and properties of materials that can be set.

11. German Published Application No. DE 19819946 A1

This document was cited in the corresponding European Opposition Procedure. Applicants are not aware of any English language document equivalent to this document. The English Abstract of the corresponding document EP 0955453 is attached and applicants point out that document DE 19819946 A1 was already included in the Information Disclosure Statement filed in December 2006.

12. EP Published Application No. EP 0939208 A2

This document was cited in the corresponding European Opposition Procedure. English Abstract of is attached. Applicants are not aware of any English language document equivalent to this document. Applicants point out that EP 0939208 A2 was already included in the Information Disclosure Statement filed in December 2006.

13. Swiss Published Application No. CH 414889 A

This document was cited in the corresponding European Opposition Procedure. Applicants are not aware of any English language document equivalent to this document. The relevancy of this document was urged by Opposition Requester in an Opposition proceeding before the EPO to be as follows: This document reveals the advantages of pulse welding in general use.

14. German Published Application No. DE 20113032

This document was cited in the corresponding European Opposition Procedure. Applicants are not aware of any English language document equivalent to this document. The relevancy of this document was urged by Opposition Requester in an Opposition proceeding

before the EPO to be as follows: This document reveals the advantages of pulse welding in general use.

15. German Published Application No. DE 19702367 A1

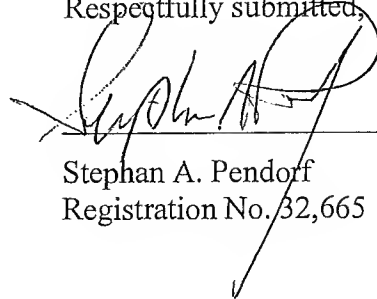
This document was cited in the corresponding European Opposition Procedure. This document belongs to the same "patent family" of US Patent No. 5,761,905 A1, whereby US 5,761,905 A1 may assist the PTO in understanding the content of the non-English document.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedated or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17 (p) has been submitted herewith.

Applicant respectfully requests that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08a be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: **June 2, 2011**